

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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For information, contact:

Dennis Kostick, Soda Ash Commodity Specialist  
U.S. Geological Survey  
983 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192  
Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax: (703) 648-7722  
E-mail: [dkostick@usgs.gov](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

Jeff Milanovich (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7982

Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## SODA ASH IN OCTOBER 1999

Natural soda ash production in October was 888,000 metric tons, 8% higher than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were 264,000 tons, 4% higher than the preceding month's inventories. Wyoming trona production in October was 1.29 million tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda was withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

Apparent consumption of soda ash in September was 636,000

tons, 15% higher than the September 1998 level of 554,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in September 1999 were 236,000 tons and 9,120 tons, respectively.

The trends in cumulative soda ash statistics through September 1999, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1998, were as follows: production slightly lower, imports 3% higher, exports 10% lower, ending stocks 12% lower, and apparent consumption 6% higher.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH STATISTICS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Soda ash		Wyoming trona production
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	
1998:			
September	849	288	1,070
October	831	322	1,320
November	858	311	1,390
December	840	273	1,430
Total (January-October)	8,450	XX	13,700
Year total	10,100	XX	16,500
1999:			
January	835	296	1,490
February	749	320	1,230
March	877	297	1,480
April	833	272	1,320
May	886	371	1,450
June	859	303	1,100
July	911	315	1,140
August	803	292	1,180
September	824	254	1,280
October	888	264	1,290
Total	8,470	XX	13,000

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1999 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH, BY COUNTRY, IN SEPTEMBER 1999 1/ 2/

Country	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 3/ (thousands)	Unit value
Korea, Republic of	55,500	\$7,230	\$130
Mexico	48,800	5,400	111
Japan	35,200	4,500	128
Canada	22,100	1,850	84
Taiwan	21,900	2,870	131
South Africa	17,900	2,150	120
Colombia	13,100	1,900	145
Belgium	9,000	1,120	124
Spain	5,000	486	97
Nigeria	3,890	392	101
Other	3,100	567	183
Total	236,000	28,500	121

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ October 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total	% of total
Argentina	2,680	13,800	--	--	14,000	--	22,000	--	--	52,500	2
Australia	6,000	--	5,000	--	6,000	--	--	6,460	--	23,500	1
Belgium	--	--	18,100	14,800	12,000	18	17,500	6	9,000	71,400	3
Bolivia	--	150	--	450	--	700	--	27	--	1,330	(3/)
Brazil	24,000	21,900	--	12,000	27,800	--	--	46,900	--	133,000	5
Canada	21,200	24,800	24,500	19,100	18,200	20,500	16,500	21,700	22,100	188,000	8
Chile	--	21,100	--	24,500	--	26,400	--	25,500	--	97,400	4
China	4,500	--	4,500	--	4,700	5,000	--	12,300	--	31,000	1
Colombia	11,000	20,400	--	--	--	--	--	7,480	13,100	52,000	2
Costa Rica	--	--	--	5,000	--	--	--	--	--	5,000	(3/)
France	--	30,000	15,100	15,400	--	--	--	23,500	--	84,000	3
Germany	--	--	185	--	114	--	--	--	116	415	(3/)
Guatemala	65	3,040	82	2,040	82	73	--	2,010	123	7,510	(3/)
Indonesia	16,000	--	20,000	20,500	19,000	16,500	23,000	45,000	--	160,000	6
Italy	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,100	--	5,100	(3/)
Jamaica	--	16	16	2,030	--	--	--	2,050	--	4,110	(3/)
Japan	27,500	36,100	10,500	37,900	7,040	41,100	35,500	9,500	35,200	240,000	10
Korea, Republic of	32,000	3,280	26,400	170	20,700	139	19,500	19,800	55,500	178,000	7
Malaysia	--	18,100	--	--	17,500	9,500	5,000	9,500	--	59,600	2
Mexico	38,100	37,800	44,700	31,300	53,900	20,800	50,600	62,100	48,800	388,000	16
New Zealand	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,000	--	--	7,000	(3/)
Nigeria	--	--	--	--	--	3,960	--	--	3,890	7,850	(3/)
Norway	--	--	--	23	--	--	29	--	--	52	(3/)
Peru	--	3,100	--	3,450	--	3,620	--	2,120	--	12,300	(3/)
Philippines	--	11,000	--	10,000	8,000	--	8,500	10,000	--	47,500	2
Saudi Arabia	15,000	--	14,000	--	15,000	--	15,000	--	--	59,000	2
Singapore	--	--	3,500	--	--	--	4,000	--	--	7,500	(3/)
South Africa	14,900	--	17,000	--	--	--	18,900	--	17,900	68,700	3
Spain	--	16,200	11,200	33,100	--	--	11,900	--	5,000	77,400	3
Suriname	19	58	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	96	(3/)
Taiwan	15,000	23,100	4,300	22,600	--	23,000	5,500	20,000	21,900	135,000	5
Thailand	13,400	14,000	23,400	21,500	17,300	15,300	15,200	18,700	--	139,000	6
Tonga	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	36	36	(3/)
Trinidad and Tobago	--	2,900	--	--	2,830	--	--	--	2,800	8,530	(3/)
United Arab Emirates	--	--	6,000	--	--	--	6,000	--	--	12,000	(3/)
United Kingdom	147	--	20	20	7,020	--	20	--	20	7,250	(3/)
Uruguay	--	--	--	--	794	--	--	--	--	794	(3/)
Venezuela	18,500	--	--	--	23,100	15,000	--	45,700	--	102,000	4
Vietnam	--	--	--	--	--	4,000	--	5,000	--	9,000	(3/)
Total	260,000	301,000	248,000	276,000	275,000	206,000	282,000	401,000	236,000	2,480,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ October 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH 1/

Period	Quantity (metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)
1998:		
September	8,050	\$1,030
October	6,260	824
November	6,870	906
December	6,550	827
Total (January-September)	63,200	8,250
Year total	82,900	10,800
1999: 3/		
January	3,910	512
February	6,620	762
March	8,810	1,030
April	7,990	924
May	6,600	761
June	7,960	980
July	7,750	939
August	6,410	812
September	9,120	1,080
Total	65,200	7,800

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

3/ October 1999 data were not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				Increase	Decrease	
1998:						
September	849,000	8,050	347,000	--	43,900	554,000
October	831,000	6,260	244,000	33,200	--	560,000
November	858,000	6,870	336,000	--	10,400	540,000
December	840,000	6,550	307,000	--	37,900	578,000
Total (January-September)	7,620,000	63,200	2,770,000	29,600	--	4,880,000
Year total	10,100,000	82,900	3,660,000	14,500	--	6,550,000
1999:						
January	835,000	3,910	260,000	22,900	--	556,000
February	749,000	6,620	301,000	23,400	--	432,000
March	877,000	8,810	248,000	--	23,200	661,000
April	833,000	7,990	276,000	--	24,500	590,000
May	886,000	6,600	275,000	99,000	--	519,000
June	859,000	7,960	206,000	--	67,800	729,000
July	911,000	7,750	282,000	11,700	--	625,000
August	803,000	6,410	401,000	--	22,700	432,000
September	824,000	9,120	236,000	--	38,400	636,000
October	888,000	NA	NA	10,300	--	NA
Total (January-September)	7,580,000	65,200	2,480,000	--	19,400	5,180,000

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.

TABLE 6  
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH IN THE UNITED STATES, BY END USE,  
BY QUARTERS 1/

(Metric tons)

SIC Code	End use	1998	1999			Total
		Third quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	
32	Glass:					
3221	Container	413,000	395,000	425,000	407,000	1,230,000
3211	Flat	277,000	250,000	287,000	295,000	832,000
3296	Fiber	66,500	66,600	63,500	65,100	195,000
3229	Other	65,300	59,400	64,000	63,500	187,000
	Total	821,000	772,000	839,000	831,000	2,440,000
281	Chemicals	454,000	406,000	411,000 r/	428,000	1,240,000
284	Soaps and detergents	186,000	179,000	181,000 r/	181,000	541,000
26	Pulp and paper	35,200	32,500	29,100	26,900	88,400
2899	Water treatment 2/	29,100	31,200	22,900	24,100	78,300
	Fluegas desulfurization	49,700	37,500	34,000	35,800	107,000
	Distributors	79,200	78,300	82,600	79,500	240,000
	Other	35,700	20,000 r/	26,200 r/	11,400	57,600
	Total domestic consumption 3/	1,690,000	1,560,000	1,630,000 r/	1,620,000	4,800,000
	Exports 4/	891,000	872,000	976,000	975,000	2,820,000
	Canada	37,500	63,500	53,800	60,700	178,000
	Total industry sales 5/	2,580,000	2,600,000 r/	2,600,000	2,590,000	7,790,000
	Total sales from plants	2,490,000	2,350,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	7,350,000
	Total production	2,520,000	2,460,000	2,580,000	2,540,000	7,580,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors and purge liquors sold to powerplant for water treatment. Sales of mine water are excluded.

3/ Imports reported by the producer/importer have been distributed into appropriate end-use categories listed above.

4/ As reported by producers. Includes Canada. Data may not necessarily agree with that reported by the Bureau of the Census for the same periods.

5/ Represents soda ash from domestic origin (production and inventory changes) and imports and for exports. Includes soda ash sold by coproducers and distributed by purchasers into appropriate end-use categories.